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19<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers in the Bonitas Trust

We are delighted that both our schools, Ranelagh and Jennett's Park, have been able to welcome additional students into school for face-to-face learning. Our schools, whilst looking different, are starting to feel like the place of education that they long to be. However, we are greatly aware that face-to-face teaching is not available to all our children. The decisions about which children have been invited into school, and when, have not been simple or easy. We are bound by Government directives relating to which year groups are allowed to attend, how many children are permitted in school at any one time and the 2-m social distance rule. In addition, we also have guidance and advice which changes on a regular basis. Due to the constraints we are working with we are acutely aware that many children will not experience any face-to-face teaching for the rest of this academic year and this is a challenge socially and emotionally for us all. I can assure you our continual aim is clear: we want as many children as possible in school learning and engaging as we can, whilst ensuring everyone remains safe.

In my last letter I said uncertain times often lead to extraordinary actions and this remains true today as both schools within the Trust are open to increased numbers of children and continue to plan to open to more students. We appreciate that these extraordinary actions are not limited to the schools themselves and you as parents and carers deserve our thanks for your support, flexibility and understanding during this uncertain time. It has not been easy for anyone; parents have been struggling to work whilst juggling childcare and helping to home school; children have missed their friends and their routines. To all families who are trying just to "hold it all together", we very much thank you for your efforts and hope we can all go on working together as we open our schools further. Individual school plans have, and will continue to be, shared by each school and I encourage you to carry on working with us as these develop.

While we now have clarity on our ability to open our schools to more children for the rest of this academic year, the picture remains uncertain for the future. We are continuing to work very hard to find the best ways to bring as many children into our schools in September as possible with the very clear aim to have **all** children in school. Currently we still await new Government directives and guidance that would allow this and you will see much in the press on the subject. Whatever the new guidance, our planning is underway. It may differ from other schools, but we are committed to finding the best solution for our schools based on individual school circumstances including building layout, class sizes, teacher and subject leader availability. For all involved, the solutions are not easy and we continue to ask for your patience and understanding,

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With several weeks of the school year to go, teachers across the Trust are continuing to work hard to provide on line and home learning programmes that are fit for purpose. Most students are actively engaging in this form of learning and we would ask you to continue to help your child maintain momentum. We also ask that you respect the current social guidelines when your children are out of school. As the numbers of children in our schools increases, we must ensure the safety of all our students and staff; if we discover that a child who is in school has been ignoring the social guidelines out of school, you will be asked to collect them. We cannot risk the safety of others.

The year 2020 has evoked many emotions for everyone, but none more than the those of uncertainty and frustration; uncertainty about all aspects of life – jobs, family, holidays, school and frustrations about not being able to do things that we had viewed as normal – seeing friends and family, eating in a restaurant, even a having a haircut. These emotions are especially felt by those pupils who were due to leave our schools this summer, in years 6, 11 and 13. For the children in these year groups there was no time for farewells and their planned celebrations came to an abrupt halt – our good wishes go to all of them and both schools hope to be able to mark their transition in some way over the coming weeks.

We do understand that the uncertainty over school attendance is hard, but I can assure you that our teachers are desperate to be back in their classrooms and our leaders are working tirelessly to welcome as many children back as possible. Throughout the Trust we are all doing our utmost to ensure our children continue to progress, are ready to return to school as soon as they can and that we all stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rachel Phillips". The script is cursive and fluid.

**Mrs Rachel Phillips**  
**Chair of the Bonitas Trust**